



Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. 10/543,057

Atty. Docket: Q89292

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In Figure 1, reference numeral "2" has been changed to --23--, according to the proposed drawing correction filed on July 21, 2005, and approved by the Examiner on July 12, 2006.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet (including Figure 1)

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. New claims 12-14 have been added. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Drawings

The Examiner noted certain inconsistencies between the drawings and the specification. Specifically, the Examiner asserted that the reference numeral “2” used to identify the balls in the drawings is not properly noted in the specification. Applicants have submitted herewith a corrected drawing sheet, wherein the balls have been labeled as “23”. Additionally, the specification has been amended so as to reference “23” when mentioning the balls.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 8-11 under §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11-046467 to Tsukamoto (hereinafter JP ‘467). Applicants respectfully submit that JP ‘467 fails to disclose all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

Claim 1 sets forth an actuator comprising, *inter alia*, (i) a first gear portion formed on an entire outer circumferential surface, except for shaft support portions, of a rotational shaft, and (ii) a second gear portion directly formed on a flange portion of a nut member.

In contrast to (i) set forth in claim 1, JP ‘467 discloses (with reference to Fig. 1, as relied upon by the Examiner) a shaft 1b having gear portions 1f and 1g that cover only a small portion of the shaft. That is, aside from the portions of the shaft adjacent bearings 1d and 1e, there are other portions that do not include a gear portion such as, for example, the portion adjacent element 1c. In contrast to (ii) set forth in claim 1, JP ‘467 discloses (with reference to Fig. 1, as relied upon by the Examiner) planetary gears 2b that are attached to the flange 2d of the nut member via axles 2c; the planetary gears 2b are not directly formed on the flange portion of the nut member. Further, in Fig. 2, JP ‘467 discloses a rotational shaft member 25 connected to the

nut member 23b via shaft 24a and balls 24c. And it is the shaft member 25 that has a gear portion 22b; there is no gear portion formed on the nut member 23b.

For at least the above reasons, JP '467 fails to disclose all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claim 1. Therefore, JP '467 fails to anticipate claim 1. Likewise, this reference fails to anticipate the dependent claims 2-6 and 8-11.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 7 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '467 in view of JP 61-70269 to Tsukamoto (hereinafter JP '269). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the references fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

As noted above, JP '467 is deficient. The Examiner relies on JP '269 as teaching a nylon resin gear. However, JP '269 fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies in JP '467. Accordingly, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine JP '467 and JP '269 as suggested by the Examiner, any such combination would still fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth in claim 7 by virtue of its dependence on claim 1.

In light of the above, JP '467 and JP '269 fail to render obvious Applicants' claim 7.

New Claims

Claims 12-14 have been added. Claims 12-14 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, should be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Schmidt", is written over a horizontal line.

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